

tal applicable to that object. The country, it is believed, contains a sufficiency of capital, if motives could be presented to give it a proper direction. To effect this, the committee can suggest no measure, which in their opinion would be so effectual, as a law limiting the responsibility of copartners to the sums which they shall put into the copartnership. A large portion of the capital to which we must look for carrying on the business of direct importations, is in the hands of planters, and men of fortune who have retired from business, who would be willing to put a portion of their surplus capital into importing copartnerships under the management of men of character and capacity, but would never consent to make their whole fortunes responsible for the success of the undertaking. If they actually contribute a certain amount of capital, and the public is apprized that their responsibility extends no further, it is obvious that the credit of the concern will rest upon the substantial foundation of the capital paid in. Nothing can be more fair as it regards the public, and nothing would so effectually direct the capital and enterprize of our citizens into channels where it is so much wanted. The committee think it would be expedient to memorialize the Legislatures of the Southern and South-western States on this subject, and recommend to the Convention the appointment of committees for that purpose.

Another measure which would greatly facilitate the establishment of a system of direct importations, would be the formation of a connection and correspondence between some of our banks and some of those in England, by which each should have a standing credit with the other. This would enable the banks here to furnish the merchants who might wish to purchase goods in England with letters of credit, upon receiving adequate security. The bearer of such a letter would have to pay interest only from the time he actually drew the money to pay for his purchases. This would prevent the loss of interest which he would incur if compelled to provide himself with money before he set out on his adventure. Cotton purchasers from England would derive the same benefit by obtaining similar letters, from the banks there, upon those of our banks, with which they should have an established credit.

If in addition to these facilities, our banks would establish agencies in Europe, and advance a limited amount, upon Cotton consigned to them, it would greatly contribute to accomplish our common object, by enabling our citizens to export their own cotton, as well as to import their own merchandise, without the intervention of any Northern agency.

In concluding their report, the Committee cannot but express their strong conviction, that the success of this great movement towards the emancipation of the staple growing States from their commercial trammels, will depend more upon individual enterprise, sustained and supported by an enlightened public opinion, than upon any measures of legislation, however important these may be. The business of direct importations must be commenced at once; for if the present occasion is permitted to pass away unimproved, one equally propitious may never occur. The Committee recommend the Convention to adopt the following resolutions, in furtherance of the views expressed in the foregoing report.

1. *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Convention, the present conjuncture in our commercial affairs is eminently propitious for the establishment of a system of direct importations, through our Southern and South-western Cities, and that we are called upon by every consideration of interest and of patriotism, to throw off the degrading shackles of our commercial dependence.

2. *Resolved*, That with a view to induce public spirited capitalists to embark in this business, the people of the staple-growing States be recommended to give public manifestations of their determination to encourage and sustain importations through their own seaports.

3. *Resolved*, That two Committees be appointed by the President of this Convention, to memorialize respectively, the legislatures of Georgia and South Carolina on the subject of limited copartnership.

4. *Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to prepare an address to the people of the Southern and South-western States, setting forth the advantages and practicability of carrying on a direct trade with foreign nations—exhibiting in detail the extent of their resources.

5. *Resolved*, That said Committee, in preparing such address, embody and conform to the views of the Convention as expressed in the Preamble and Resolutions adopted.

On motion the Report and Resolutions were ordered to be read separately.

The secretary then read the first resolution. As soon as he finished Gen. McDuffie rose, and spoke in favor of the resolution and the objects of the convention. He was followed by Joseph Cumming, Esq., of Savannah; Seaborn Jones, Esq., of Columbus; and Mr. Chappell of Macon, all of whom spoke at length on the benefits which the meeting of this convention was likely to produce to the southern states, if the citizens thereof would only take the subject matter into serious consideration, and lay hold of it with hand and heart.

After Mr. Chappell had finished speaking, Mr. Wm. Dearing of Athens, then rose and moved that the convention take

a recess until four o'clock, which on being put to vote—was lost.

The question on the adoption of the first resolution, was then put and carried unanimously.

The second resolution was then read by the secretary and was adopted without debate as was also the third.

The fourth resolution was then read, but before the question was taken, Mr. Seaborn Jones rose and stated to the Convention that he had a resolution which he wished to offer to the convention, and that if approved of, should proceed the resolution just read; He then read the following resolution—

*Resolved*, That it is a sacred duty which the citizens of the southern and south-western states owe to themselves, their posterity and their country, to give a decided preference in procuring their supplies, to our merchants who carry on a direct trade with foreign nations.

Joseph Cumming, of Savannah, opposed the resolution, he thought it was unnecessary and would do no good—merchants would buy where they could procure their goods on the best terms, and that if the south could not afford greater facilities than the north—they would still resort to northern markets. But he believed the south could afford as great or greater inducements, and if she did, there was no need to appeal to the patriotism of its citizens, for both patriotism and interest would induce them to trade with us.

Mr. Jones then replied to the arguments of Mr. Cumming, and after some further remarks from Messrs. Jenkins, of Augusta, King, of Brunswick, and Alexander, of Charleston, Mr. John Bones, of Augusta, offered as an amendment, that after the words "decided preference" the following should be added—where the terms are equal—which amendment was received by Mr. Jones, and the resolution, as amended, was put to the Convention and adopted.

Mr. Seaborn Jones then rose and asked leave to add to the third resolution passed an amendment, which he read. Mr. McDuffie opposed the motion, as did also Mr. J. A. Cuthbert of Milledgeville. Mr. Jones spoke in favor of his motion, but after a few remarks from Mr. Parkman, of Savannah, he withdrew his amendment.

The fourth and fifth Resolutions were then read and adopted.

Joseph Cumming Esq., of Savannah, then rose, and after a few prefatory remarks, offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Alexander, of Charleston.

*Resolved*, That this Convention recommend to the citizens of the South and South-western states to appoint Delegates to meet in Convention at Augusta on the first Monday in April, 1838, to continue the interest and objects of this Convention before the people.

Mr. Alexander of Charleston, rose and made a few remarks; he was followed by Col. Hayne, of Charleston, who spoke at length on the benefits to be derived by the adoption of the resolution—but the resolution being out of order, a call was made for the question on the adoption of the Report and Resolutions offered by the Select Committee, which being put by the Chair, the Report and Resolutions of the Committee, with that added by Mr. Jones, were adopted.

Joseph Cumming Esq. then offered his resolution, which was adopted.

Mr. C. J. Jenkins, in behalf of the Augusta Delegation, offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That as an introduction to a direct importing system at the South, it is indispensably necessary that the crop of the present year should be directly exported by Southern Merchants and Planters, and that to effect this object the Southern Banking Institutions should lend such aid as they safely and conveniently can.—Adopted.

On motion of different members, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Convention be tendered to the Committee for their able and judicious report.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Convention be tendered to the President and Secretary, for the able manner in which they have discharged their duties.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Convention be tendered to the Trustees for the use of the Presbyterian Church.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Convention be tendered to the Citizens of Augusta for their hospitality.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Convention be tendered to the Directors of the Georgia Insurance and Trust Company, for the use of their room by the Committee.

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of the Convention and the address to the people of the Southern and South-western States be printed in pamphlet form and extensively circulated, and that the delegates from Augusta be appointed a Committee to superintend the publication.

After this resolution was read, a motion was made that a subscription be made by the members of the Convention to defray the expenses of printing the proceedings of the Convention, whereupon Mr. H. Cumming rose, and in behalf of the Augusta delegation, stated, that with the permission of the Convention, they would undertake the superintendence of the printing of the Report and proceedings of the Convention, and would defray all expenses.

Seaborn Jones, Esq. then rose and offered the following resolution, which was adopted.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Convention be tendered to the Delegates from Augusta for their liberality in defraying the expense of the publication of the proceedings of the Convention.

On motion of Mr. Cuthbert, of Georgia, the Convention then adjourned sine die.

Committees appointed under 3d Resolution:

For S. Carolina—ALEX. BLACK, D. ALEXANDER, C. J. SHANNON, JAMES ADGER, S. G. BARKLEY.

For Georgia—A. H. KENAN, ADAM JOHNSTON, L. JOHNSON, BENJ. E. STILES, SEABORN JONES.

Committee to prepare the Address: GEO. McDUFFIE, T. CUTLER KING, H. H. CUMMING, A. H. CHAP. ELI, JAMES GADSDEN.

From the Evening Post.

STORY OF UNCLE SAM AND HIS AGENTS.

CHAPTER I.

There lived not long ago, and perhaps lives still, in a certain great country known as the republic of Elsewhere, a worthy gentleman, commonly called Uncle Sam by his friends, rich in lands and having a great revenue coming in every year from the trade he carried on with his neighbors. Being an active, shrewd, clear headed man, he had all his life managed his own affairs; with the assistance of his servants and men of business whom he kept a sharp eye on, and called to a strict account for all their actions. By these means he prospered exceedingly in his affairs, and if he, from a failure of his crops, a glut of his manufactures, or any other unforeseen circumstance, got into debt, he always paid up like a man, so that nobody feared to trust him when he wanted to raise the wind on an emergency.

In this manner he went on prospering for years, and growing richer, if not wiser, every day, until some arch knave, either envying or wishing to share his property without the trouble of working for it, put into his head, that having such a vast property to manage, and so much money in his purse, and so many irons in the fire, and being with all, on the shady side of fifty, it was absolutely necessary to have somebody to take care of his money for him. They persuaded him that his own servants and people were unworthy of being trusted—though he could turn them away when he pleased, and confiscate their wages—and, moreover, that his Strong Box, where he had kept his cash ever so long, safe and sound, was liable to be broken open and robbed not only by thieves from without; but rogues within.

These notions made a deep impression on Uncle Sam and when about the same time he found his affairs in some confusion, and himself pushed for money, on account of a great law-suit with his neighbor John Bull, which cost him a confounded deal of money; as is always the case, especially when a man has right on his side—when, I say, he discovered these matters, he listened the more attentively to those loose varlets, and finally after much twitching of the waistband of his breeches, and making many wry faces, determined to adopt their advice. Accordingly they procured one of the cunningest pettifoggers in the country to draw up what they called a charter party, whereby Uncle Sam covenanted and agreed to place all his money, and pretty nearly all his power as Justice of Peace, and Colonel of Militia, in the hands of a great strapping fellow who went by the nick-name of Bully Mammoth, and boasted of being worth thirty-five millions of dollars, all in paper money, which he swore was worth its weight in gold and silver, for they were all in my eye Betty Martin.

The Bully Mammoth, who was after all a poor d—l of a speculator, promised to take good care of Uncle Sam's money for him; and render him every month, a just and true account of every penny. At first Uncle Sam was mightily tickled with having got rid of the trouble of managing his money, and the dangers of having his strong box robbed.—Besides this, owing to a succession of fruitful seasons, an increasing product of his lands, and a growing demand all over the neighborhood, he found himself getting rich every year, and had more paper money than he well knew what to do with. In the mean time, Bully Mammoth, as he was called, took excellent care of Uncle Sam's hard cash, by lending it out to his friends, and otherwise employing it to a great project, which he had in his head, for according to the old saying, "Set a beggar on horseback and he'll ride to the devil."

The project was no other than that of getting possession of all Uncle Sam's revenues, turning out all his old servants, putting his own toad-eaters in their room, and finally installing one Peter Periwig in his place of Justice of the Peace and Colonel of Militia. For this purpose he employed Uncle Sam's own money, which was like breaking a man's head with his own cudgel.

When Uncle Sam, who was a high spirited, up and down old gentleman, as brave as Caesar and as honest as the sun at noonday, first found out these pranks of Bully Mammoth, he knocked the ashes out of his pipe, stuck it into his button hole, as was his custom, and swore, as was also his custom, that he would soon

unhorse the Bully, and make him walk on four all the rest of his life. "By the Eternal," quoth he, "but I'll pack him after Packingham," which was one of his usual sayings. "I'll make him give in his accounts and pony up the balances in the twinkling of a bedpost."

Accordingly, he sent some his lawyers, of whom he had always more than was good for him in his employ, to demand of the great Bully Mammoth an examination into his affairs, and a surrender of the balance due him. The Bully therefore told them he'd see them hanged first, and Uncle Sam too. He swore that the charter party allowed him to do just as he pleased, and that he would do as he pleased in spite of law or gospel. He concluded by snapping his fingers, a d bidding the lawyers go about their business. So they went back with a flea in their ear, and told Uncle Sam that he had signed a Charter Party which came within a hair's breadth of making the Bully his master instead of his agent. "Have I," quoth the stout old gentleman, "then by the Eternal, I'll unmake him, for I never yet tied a knot that I could not untie again, or cut through, which I take to be pretty much the same thing."

Upon this he set himself about getting his money out of the hands of this blustering agent, who bragged lustily about his wealth, though I never could find he had any but what belonged to Uncle Sam. The old man had a tough time of it; it was like pulling teeth, for the Bully had eleven points of the law in his favor, that is to say, he had possession, and made war against Uncle Sam, with his own money, which is pretty much like maintaining an army in an enemy's country.

Not to be tedious, and as the affair is pretty generally known to the world, I shall refrain from relating the particulars of the contest between Uncle Sam and his agent, which kept the whole neighborhood in hot water for a long time. Suffice it to say, that the old gentleman succeeded at last in getting rid of the Blustering Bully-cock of a fellow, in so far as that he no longer managed his business. Be he could not get his money out of his hands, and to this day the Bully Mammoth keeps in his fist a great sum belonging to the old gentleman, which it is said he employs in a sly way, speculating in cottons, and paying people for abusing his employer. I cannot say whether these reports are true, as I know nothing of shaving except mine own beard; never speculated in any thing but phrenology and animal magnetism; and have all my life refrained from abusing any body but "the People and the D—," as in duty bound.

One would suppose that this sample of the blessings of an agency, might have satisfied a reasonable man, as Uncle Sam was—as times ago. But experience teaches us that we have long been accustomed to, we at length imagine we can't do without, just as the foolish fellow, who had always run on all fours, would never be persuaded that he could get on faster on two. It was thus with Uncle Sam. He had been long enough dependent on others to think he could not depend on himself. Accordingly he tried a second experiment, and to mend the matters chose a multitude of agents instead of one. The result must be left to another chapter.

CHAPTER II.

You have heard how Uncle Sam was treated by his agents the great Bully Mammoth, and how he at length, after great difficulty, got himself, but not his money, out of his clutches. But for all this harsh experience, either the good gentleman grew never the wiser, or he was so good natured as to be over persuaded by the same mischievous advisers, for he no sooner got his chestnut out of one fire than he thrust it into a dozen others; hotter than the first, just for all the world as a moth, after getting one wing singed in the candle, never rests till he has scorched the other.

"In the multitude of counsellors there is safety," saith the inspired writer, and "in the multitude of agents there is safety to your money," said Uncle Sam's uninspired advisers. "A single rogue is a dangerous fellow, but in a multitude of rogues there is safety, for they will watch each other. Set a thief to catch a thief all the world over." It was thus that these people argued, not bearing in mind that though an honest man can stand alone, it is the instinct (as it were) of rogues to combine to fleece him, rather than each other.

Be this as it may, Uncle Sam being either over-persuaded, or perhaps finding it necessary from having been so long out of the habit of managing his own affairs, that by this time he knew nothing about them, instead of one agent selected, the Lord knows how many, and thus fell out of the frying pan into the fire. He thought—for your brave honest men are apt to be credulous, that having mastered the big Bully, he could easily deal with the little ones, which notion of Uncle Sam reminds me of a story of a certain honest fellow, who being employed to take away a quantity of gunpowder which gave umbrage to the neighbors, only removed a great barrel, and left the whole litter of little kegs behind. Being asked the reason of this negligence, he replied, "Oh I thought if I took away the big one, the little ones could do no harm."

Uncle Sam's new agents performed their duties to a miracle, for the old man furnished them with as much good specie as they knew what to do with, for which they gave in exchange a parcel of promises to pay, which promises nobody ever

thought of calling on them to fulfil. They may new brooms sweep clean, and, as will appear in the sequel, these new brooms ended in sweeping away Uncle Sam's money nobody knows where. In short, they behaved so well at first, that Uncle Sam's advisers, who it is strongly suspected were wolves in sheep's clothing, counselled him to increase the number of his agents, not choosing to recollect that it is possible to have too much of a good thing, as likewise the other equally wise saying, that too much of a good thing is good for nothing.

Matters now went on swimmingly for both wind and tide were fair, and it was all down hill. Uncle Sam poured his treasure into the laps of his agents, who determined to make hay while the sun shone, lent it out on interest to every one that wanted to borrow, until paper money became so plenty that it made every thing else scarce, most especially silver, gold, flour, pork, beef, hay and potatoes. In short, the whole neighborhood was in the state of unparalleled prosperity, for every body owed the agent more than they could pay, and the agents were precisely in a like situation with Uncle Sam. The "credit system" was in all its glory.

Truly hath it been said—or if it never hath been said, I say it now; for it is high time it were said—that of all the modes of happiness ever invented or dreamed of, that of running in debt would be the most infallible were it only to last forever. But as the great enemy of man and the credit system will have it, pay day must come; the stocking must be unravelled at last, and then nothing but old rotten yarn remains. The landlord will have his reckoning, and when the feast is devoured the bill must be paid. It was so with Uncle Sam's agents, who had not only lent out all his cash, but made so many promises, that on being called on to fulfil them, and finding it rather inconvenient to pay all, like honest fellows, they unanimously resolved not to pay any.

A poor, foolish "huge-pawed" day laborer, who demanded payment of five dollars, and was paid in another promise, took the liberty of calling one of them rascal. "Rascal!" cried the other in a great passion; do you mean to insult us? Do we not treat you all alike, by paying none of you, according to the strict rule of equity, which ordains that we should pay nobody their just dues, and thus dealing equal justice to all?" Report says that the poor dolt was not convinced, thereupon the agent indulgently showed him the door, as a fellow that would not listen to reason.

Things being thus situated, Uncle Sam thought it high time to look to his own affairs and call on his agents for the payment of the balances due him; justly considering that his cash was in imminent danger, and that those who could not nor would not pay a few dollars, would have little means or inclination to pay hundreds of thousands. In reply the agents tendered him payments in promises, which as they had already broken them, Uncle Sam declined receiving in lieu of silver and gold the only currency, as he said, that agreed with his constitution, inasmuch that when he got a paper promise of these agents, which he opprobriously called a "shin plaster," in his pocket, he always got a stitch in that side, and could hardly keep himself upright. The agents swore their promises were as good as pie crust, which every body knew was made to be broken; and that if Uncle Sam would not take these he might go and whistle for his money, for a man who did not believe that a thing without value was equal to a thing of value, was quite as bad, if not worse, than the two rogues, who, against the testimony of both truth and reason, denied that a crust of bread was a shoulder of mutton.

"By the eternal," cried Uncle Sam, "but I'll be in your mutton, and your bread basket too, before I've done with you. I'll row you up Salt River, my boys." "Row away," cried these varlets, who cared little for either law or gospel, for they knew they could tickle the judges and conciliate the persons, by subscribing to build churches. Experience had long since taught them that the scales of justice are not always weighed down by right or reason, and that the goddess (to speak profanely) sometimes places a bandage over her eyes, only to shut out the light of truth.

"Plague take these rascally agents, together with all other agents, past, present and future. Here am I with thousands and hundreds of thousands, good and to spare from all debts, dues or obligations, almost without money to go to market with. What the d—l has become of it all? I am determined to find out if I rip the secret out of their gizzards." So he went to work, but he night as well have looked for the south pole in front of the barber's shop. He found that it was rather worse than searching for the longitude, and was at last obliged to be content with sitting down in the midst of wealth as poor as Job's Turkeys, of which it took six to make a shadow.

The worthy gentleman who was now sick of agents. The wisest man may be picked of his feathers once, but he must be worse than a goose who takes it a second time without a fight for it. "By the eternal," quoth he, but I'll be my own agent, as I was before I turned fool, and got others to do what I could do much better myself. These varlets shall never touch another dollar of my money. This shall be my strong box "cried he, slapping his breeches pocket," and may the old boy fly away with my agents from Bully